

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 VO-05 EUR-12 /047 W
-----015534 300634Z /10

R 280705Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1737
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SREF
SUBJ: REPORTS OF REFUGEES PASSED BY SHIPS ON THE HIGH
SEAS

REF KUALA LUMPUR 9456

1. REFUGEES ABOARD A 14-METER FISHING BOAT, SS 0449,
WHICH LEFT CAMAU, VIETNAM SEPTEMBER 4 CARRYING 42 REFUGEES,
AND ARRIVED IN SONGKHLA IN THE AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 10
REPORTED TO US THAT A FRENCH MERCHANT SHIP HAS PASSED THEM
DURING THEIR TRIP. ON SEPTEMBER 9 AT NOONTIME, ABOUT 130
KMS OFF THE COAST OF THAILAND THE REFUGEES REPORTEDLY SAW
A COMMERCIAL, 10,000 TON-CLASS SHIP, FLYING A FRENCH FLAG.
THE SHIP HAD THREE LARGE CRANES. THE LOWER PART OF THE
SHIP WAS PAINTED BLACK, THE UPPER PART RED. THE
REFUGEES COULD NOT READ THE NAME OR REGISTRATION NUMBER OF
THE SHIP. WHEN THE SHIP WAS ABOUT 300 METERS FROM THE
REFUGEE BOAT, THE REFUGEES DISPLAYED THREE LARGE CARDS
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WITH THE LETTERS S.O.S. THE REFUGEES SAW SEVERAL PEOPLE
ON THE SHIP LOOKING AT THEIR DISTRESS SIGNAL. THE SHIP,
HOWEVER, DID NOT SLOW DOWN OR CHANGE DIRECTION, BUT
CONTINUED SAILING IN THE DIRECTION OF SINGAPORE OR
MALAYSIA.

2. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS THIS INCIDENT TO

THE FRENCH AND TO THE UNHCR.

3. BELIEVE DEFINITE PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING AND DISSEMINATING SUCH INFORMATION SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF RECENT KUALA LUMPUR MEETING WHERE SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSED CONCERN.

4. NOTE FROM REFTTEL THAT TWO EXXON TANKERS PASSED REFUGEE BOATS. WOULD SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO LOOK INTO THIS INCIDENT AS WELL. ABRAMOWITZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, REFUGEES, SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978098/aaaaaggp.tel
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Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION HA
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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